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**Programme planning**

# Proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

## Programme 8
## Africa: New Agenda for Development

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* A/55/50.

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## Overall orientation

8.1 The programme was established subsequent to the identification by the General Assembly of the economic recovery and sustainable development of Africa as a top priority of the United Nations. It was designed to be a catalyst and to coordinate and promote activities undertaken by other programmes and entities directly responsible for the operational implementation of such activities. The programme was to play an advocacy role to ensure that the issues related to African development remained on the agenda of the United Nations and the international community.

8.2 The objectives of the programme are to: (a) mobilize the support and galvanize the efforts of the international community for African development, including through an increased flow of financial resources; (b) ensure that the development of Africa remains one of the priorities of the international community; (c) promote a supportive framework for African development efforts; (d) promote a coordinated and effective response by the United Nations system at the policy and operational levels in support of African development; and (e) strengthen and enhance South-South cooperation.

8.3 The mandate of the programme derives from various General Assembly resolutions, especially 53/90, 54/232 and 54/234. Additional framework to the work to be undertaken under this programme is provided in the Secretary-General's report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, in which he made wide-ranging recommendations on the question of peace and development in Africa; the Organization of African Unity resolution entitled "Relaunching Africa's economic and social development: the Cairo Agenda for Action"; and the Tokyo Agenda for Action, adopted by the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development in 1998.

8.4 While there have been signs of economic recovery in Africa since the launching of this programme, it is not yet strong nor sustained enough to reduce poverty or to contribute to the structural transformation of the region's economies. A wide range of problems, such as over-dependence on exports of a few primary commodities, the challenges of good governance and sound macroeconomic policies, desertification and environmental degradation, debt overhang, declining official development assistance against the backdrop of the continuing low level of domestic savings and investment, low level of foreign direct investment as well as the problems relating to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, post-conflict reconstruction and the emergence of new conflicts, undermine sustained growth and sustainable development in Africa. These have a negative impact on the successful integration of Africa into the global economy. Also the ongoing pattern of natural disasters is reversing the limited economic gains made in recent years.

8.5 The efforts to address the problems of the development of Africa under this programme would need to continue over the plan period. A final review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s will be carried out in 2002. It is expected that the outcome of this review would provide further guidance to the programme in the plan period.

8.6 The programme's strategy would be organized around three main sets of activities: (a) the mobilization and coordination of international support; (b) enhanced monitoring and assessment of activities; and (c) advocacy and global awareness of the region's critical economic and social situation. To that end, at the policy level the programme would facilitate the work of intergovernmental and ad hoc bodies that discuss Africa through the submission of high quality studies, proposals for action and progress reports on the status of implementation of action programmes. At the operational level, it would be based on the utilization of regular consultations and information sharing on the priorities established by national Governments and intergovernmental processes with a view to enabling Africa to derive maximum benefit from improved coordination of the activities undertaken by the agencies of the United Nations system. The programme would actively promote partnership between Africa and the stakeholders in its development through a better flow of information and organizing forums for policy makers and experts.

8.7 The programme will be under the joint responsibility of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Department of Public Information. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries, provides overall coordination and leadership of the programme.

## Subprogramme 1
## Mobilization of international support and global coordination

### Objective

8.8 The objective of the subprogramme is to mobilize the international community in support of the sustainable development of Africa and to strengthen the impact of the advocacy and policy initiatives of the Secretary-General on African development.

### Strategy

8.9 Substantive responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The subprogramme's strategy will be geared to creating an enabling environment for the international community to commit its support to initiatives on Africa and give effect to its commitments and to enhancing ownership by African countries of their development processes. To that end, it will promote and strengthen partnership between Africa and its development partners through exchange of experiences and improved flow of information, based on the priorities of the New Agenda for the Development of Africa. The subprogramme will also encourage increased cooperation between Africa and the other regions, including through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process and other initiatives for greater South-South cooperation. At the policy level, it will contribute to the coordination of the response of the United Nations system to Africa through inputs, as necessary, to the work of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination. In addition, the subprogramme will promote implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations global conferences as they impact on Africa, especially actions pertaining to the eradication of poverty and the integration of African countries into the global economy.

### Expected accomplishments

8.10 The expected accomplishments would include: (a) enhanced partnership between Africa and its development partners contributing to increased support to efforts within the region; (b) greater awareness and understanding of African development issues, including those relating to post-conflict situations; and (c) improved coordination of efforts by development partners in addressing the needs of Africa.

### Indicators of achievement

8.11 The indicators of achievement would include: (a) assessment of the quality and timeliness of reports submitted to intergovernmental policy-making and review bodies to facilitate deliberations on Africa; (b) the number and usefulness of briefing sessions on issues concerning African development; (c) the number and usefulness of South-South forums sponsored/co-sponsored; (d) the number of visits to the Africa web page; and (e) the use of database on the activities of non-governmental organizations and other non-governmental partners contributing to African development.

## Subprogramme 2
## Monitoring, assessment, facilitation and follow-up to the implementation of action programmes for African development

### Objective

8.12 The objective of the subprogramme is to ensure implementation of the action programmes and initiatives on African development.

### Strategy

8.13 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Economic Commission for Africa. The element of the strategy will include improving collaboration and coordination with agencies of the United Nations system with a view to ensuring effective implementation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and of the agreed outcome of the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda. In that regard, the subprogramme will draw lessons from the experiences of Member States and agencies of the United Nations system in implementing the action programmes and will disseminate the information and best practices to the various stakeholders in African development.

8.14 Additional activities include the organization of workshops, seminars and expert meetings aimed at

promoting better awareness among African policy makers of Africa-related initiatives and programmes. The subprogramme will foster partnerships so as to facilitate support for implementation of the action programmes. Efforts will also be exerted to contribute to the implementation of the recommendations of the Secretary-General pertaining to post-conflict reconstruction with particular focus on capacity-building for economic management. To that end, in some selected instances and upon request, technical cooperation activities related to post-conflict reconstruction and development will be implemented, including the training of development personnel on priority development issues.

**Expected accomplishments**

8.15 The expected accomplishments would include: (a) progress in the implementation of the programmes of action; (b) enhanced partnership among the stakeholders in Africa's development; (c) enhanced impact of United Nations agencies operating in Africa resulting from improved coordination and coherence in their work; (d) improved reporting on and dissemination of experiences in the implementation of programmes and initiatives on Africa; and (e) strengthened national economic management capacity as an integral component of peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction.

**Indicators of achievement**

8.16 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) expressions of satisfaction over the support provided to Member States in implementing the programmes of action; (b) the level of resource flows to Africa (bearing in mind that there are various factors which will significantly impact the level of resources); (c) the number of joint activities between ECA and other multilateral and bilateral agencies implementing the relevant programmes of action; (d) the number of joint activities undertaken between ECA and other United Nations agencies operating in Africa to improve and enhance coordination and collaboration; (e) the number of forums and expert meetings organized to assess and monitor the rate of implementation of the action programmes; and (f) the number of training activities organized and development personnel benefiting from them.

## Subprogramme 3
## The campaign for global awareness of the critical economic situation in Africa

**Objective**

8.17 The objective of the subprogramme is to raise international awareness of the critical social and economic situation in Africa as well as of the efforts made by Africa and the international community in order to promote the economic recovery and sustainable development of the region.

**Strategy**

8.18 Substantive responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Africa Recovery Unit of the Department of Public Information. The strategy is based on maintaining the spotlight on Africa and ensuring international awareness of the region's social and economic crises and the efforts under way to address them. In so doing, the subprogramme will draw international attention to the relevant thematic issues, based on the priorities outlined in the action programmes, and policies and events at the global and regional levels and their impact on the development prospects of African countries. To that end, regular and ad hoc publications, including the quarterly *Africa Recovery* newsletter, a series of briefing papers, occasional press kits and press releases will be prepared and disseminated as widely as possible.

**Expected accomplishments**

8.19 The expected accomplishments would include: (a) greater awareness in Africa and within the international community of the nature of the region's critical economic and social situation and of the African and international efforts required for recovery and development; (b) better understanding of the major international and national initiatives and events that contribute to Africa's economic progress.

**Indicators of achievement**

8.20 The indicators of achievement would include: (a) assessment by users of the quality and volume of information disseminated regionally and internationally through the print and electronic media outlets; (b) the

timely and regular issuance of *Africa Recovery*; and (c) the number and quality of informational materials prepared and media events organized in order to maintain the international spotlight on Africa.

## Legislative mandates

**Programme 8**
**Africa: New Agenda for Development**

*General Assembly resolutions*

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|---|---|
| 51/32 | Mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s |
| 53/90 | Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s |
| 54/232 | Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty |
| 54/234 | The causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa |

*Security Council resolutions*

1170 (1998)

1197 (1998)